AN
Impartial Relation
OF THE
Siege and Surrender
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(39)

An Impartial

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Late Famous Siege,

And Moſt Noble Defence

Of the CITY of

MONS,

With the REASONS of its SURRENDER.

Being a Summary Relation,

Of all the Particular Sallies, Aſſaults, Attacks, Skirmiſhes, Rencounters, and other Actions, both within the City, and in the Camp of the FRENCH KING: With the Number of the Slain and Wounded, and the Great Officers in the *French* Camp.

As it was Delivered in Sundry Letters, from Credible Perſons There, to Perſons of Eminent Quality in *London*.

LICENSED, *April* the 6*th*, 1691. J. Fraiſer.

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An Impartial Account of the Late Famous Siege, and most Noble Defence of MONS, *&c.*

MONS, as it hath been the Miracle of the Age, and Wonder of its Enemies (for unparalled Courage and Reſolution) ought now to be the Work of each Ingenious Writer, and Diſcourſe of every Martial Man. Fame has already ſpoke ſufficient in the praiſe of that undaunted City, whoſe Actions I now mean to particularize.

But before I enter upon the particulars of the Siege, I ſhall give the *Reader* an Account of the Province of *Hanault*, and ſcituation of *Mons*. *Hanault* is ſo named of the River *Hayne*, which runs through it. It is the chief of the *Walloon* Provinces, it bordereth on the *North* with *Brabant* and *Flanders*, belonging to the King of *Spain*, on the *South* with *Champain* and *Piccardy*, two Provinces belonging to the *French*, on the *Eaſt* with the Province of *Namur*, and on the *Weſt* with the *Sheld*, and part of *Flanders Gallican*. It is twenty Leagues long, and ſixteen broad; the Air is wholſome, and the Soil good, by reaſon that the Country is watered with many Rivers, as the *Scheld*, the *Sambre*, the *Tender*, and many other ſmall Rivulets: There are alſo in it many Lakes, Marſhes, Ponds, Pools, Fountains, goodly Woods and pleaſant Foreſts. It aboundeth with fragrant and fair Paſtures and Meadows for all kind of Cattle, with good Fruits and profitable Trees, and is repleniſhed with great plenty of good Corn. In ſome part of it are *Iron*-Mines, *Lead*, and Quarries of *Stone*, for all kind of Buildings, with great Store of *White-lime* and *Coal*.

In this Country are Twenty Four Walled Towns; namely, *Mons*, *Valenciennes*, *Bouchain*, *Queſnoy*, *Conat*, *Landreſſy*, *Ameſnes*, *Chimay*, *Mariemburg*, *Segny*, *Brain le Compte*, *Eughien*, *Halle*, *Leſme*, *Cheure*, *Ath*, *St. Guiſline*, and *Leaze*. There are alſo 950 Villages, with many Caſtles and Signiories. Many of the Villages are great and fair, and have Titles of Honour annexed to them; as, *Pequicourt*, *Fontayn*, *Laling*, *Montigny*, *Antonig*, *Barlamon*, *Barbauſon*, *Aimeries*, and many others.

The City of *MONS*, or *Berghen*, receives its Name from its Scituation, which latter, in their Language, ſignifies a Mountain or Hill; but the riſe of the Earth there is ſo gentle, as it cannot be ſaid to be Mountainous.

The City is ſtrong, as well by natural Scituation, as the mutual Induſtry

of Fortifications. It is cut through on the lower ſide by a little Rivulet called *Trulla*, which as ſoon as it goes out of it, falls into another ſomewhat bigger, called *Hayne*, which croſſing through the Province, before it be gotten quite out, falls into the *Scheld*; and on this ſide is a *Moras*, the Earth here being very Spungy: It's Fortified likewiſe round about with ſtrong and excellent Walls, Turrets, and Gates; to which are joyned many Regular Works, according to the Modern way, as Horn-works, Half-Moons, Counterſcarps, Baſtions, Redoubts, &c. there are likewiſe three large deep Ditches or Moats, with a ſtrong Caſtle or Cittadel, very good Ramparts, and a River running by the Fortifications.

The Buildings of the City, both private and publick, were very fair and beautiful; here is the noble Nunnery of St. *Valdrude*; their Churches are Built after the Ancient manner of Architecture, with ſumptuous Arches, and goodly Pillars of Marble and Porphyry; the *Stadt Heuſe* or Town-Hall is of excellent Workmanſhip. This City was ſurpriſed by the *French* Hugonets in the Year 1572. who got in great quantities of Arms in Fatts, under pretence of Merchandize; and having ſeiz'd on the Gates, they let in the Army of Count *Lodowick* of *Naſſau*, Brother to a *William* Prince of *Orange*, but it was ſoon after retaken for the King of *Spain*, by the Duke of *Alva*. The Prince *de Bergh*, who was the late Governor, has his Title from the Place, and moſt, or all his Eſtate lies in the Province, he is related to the Houſe of *Naſſau*.

The Firſt Letter.

THe *French* King having had a longing deſire to bring this City to his Subjection, reſolv'd, by an early Campaign, on the attempting of it this Spring, purſuant to which Reſolutions, he caus'd to be laid up this laſt Winter in *Valenciennes*, *Cambray*, and other Frontier Places, vaſt and almoſt Incredible quantities of Hay, Oats, and other Forrage for a numerous Army of Horſe: And having given Orders to his Generals to draw his Troops from their ſeveral Quarters, as well on the ſide of the *Rhine*, as in *Flanders*, ſending the very Troops of his Houſhold, Grand Muſqueteers, *Gens d' Arms*, and Light Horſe, &c. On the 14 of *March*, New-Stile, the *French* Army, Commanded by the Duke of *Luxenburgh*, and the Marquis *de Boufflers*, &c. directed their March towards *Mons*. On the 15*th*, their Cavalry, conſiſting of 42 Squadrons, began to Inveſt it in a formal manner. The 16*th* and 17*th* was ſpent chiefly in the Marching up of the Foot, and the Regular placing them

them in their ſeveral Poſts. On the 18*th* the Marquis *de Boufflers* ſent a Summons to the Prince *de Bergue*, to Surrender the Town on Honourable Conditions, telling him, *The King, the* Dauphine, *and all the flower of* France *would be there to oblige him to it:* But the Prince rejected his Propoſals, telling him, *That he was glad to hear that ſo great a King would be there in Perſon, to be witneſs of the Gallant and Brave Defence he was reſolved to make;* at the ſame time, as well Burghers as Regular Troops, with an unanimous Voice and undaunted Reſolutions, reſolved to defend it to the utmoſt of their Lives and Fortunes; which Anſwers, not ſuiting with the *French* deſire, nor the hopes they had of an early Surrender, made them prepare for Action. This Evening the Garriſon made a Sally on the Enemy, with 1800 young Men of the Town on Foot, and Four Squadrons of Horſe and Dragoons, Commanded by Colonel *Harcourt*; and in this Action they cut off 500 of the *French*. The 19*th* the *French* began to work on their Line of Circumvallation, having forced in near 20000 Boors or Country People that Inhabit in the Neighbourhood of *Mons*, imploying them as well in working on their Lines, as diging drains for the Marſhes, which render'd the Town inacceſſible on the ſide towards *France*; and for the more effectual draining of the *Moras*, they brought along with them new Invented Machines, likewiſe great Planks for their Cannon: They work'd very hard in their Trenches, the 19*th*, 20*th*, and 21*ſt*. On the other ſide, the Garriſon was not Idle: On the 20*th*, the Inhabitants made a great Fire to deſtroy the Blinds of the Enemy: And on *Sunday* the 21*ſt*, they made a great Sally in order to demoliſh a Fortified Mill near the Counterſcarp; in which Action 200 *French* were Killed and Drowned. On the 22*d*, the *French* King came into the Camp in Perſon, being accompanied with the *Dauphin*, the Duke *de Charles*, the Prince of *Conde*, *&c.* and as the *French* gave out, That the King brought with him Seven Millions in Gold, to diſtribute among ſuch as ſhould ſignalize their Valour in the Siege: It was thought that the Trenches would have been opened this day, but not being ready, the *French* King made very little ſtay in the Camp, but returned to St. *Guiſlain*, where he has his Quarters; and the *Dauphin* to his Quarters at *Maubeuge*. The *French* King thinking himſelf ſo ſure of reducing the Place immediately, that while he was in the Camp, he gave the Government of it to the Sieur *de Rubenton*, a Colonel of his Guards.

The Second Letter.

THe Garriſon of *Mons* was Compoſed of 6 Regiments of *Dutch*, 2 of *Germans*, 2 of *Walloons*, one of *Spaniards*, and 800 *Spaniſh* Horſe, making in all about 6500 Men; and the *Burghers* that bore Arms in the Town were about the ſame Number, moſt of them Diſciplined and well experienced Men; the Garriſon, to prevent their being incommoded by the Enemies *Bombs*, immediately applyed themſelves to uncover their Houſes, and unpave their Street; the Regular Garriſon had generally the Command of the Out-Works, and the *Burghers*, that of the Ramparts, and in the Town the Magazines; it being their own voluntary deſire, and there was always a great Harmony and good underſtanding between the Burghers and the Regular Troops; there was a Treaſonable practice diſcovered in the Town to have blown up the great Magazine of Powder, which was very near taking effect, the lighted Match being found within few Inches of the Train, ſeveral of the Conſpirators were ſeized, (proving to be *French* Spies;) But the Principal who was an Advocate, and out of whoſe Garden the Mine was made, made his Eſcape to the *French* Army. On the 24*th*. Colonel *Branaccio*, and ſeveral other conſiderable Officers got into the Town; At the ſame time the Prince *de Beigne*, the Governour, ſent a Gentleman to the Marquis *de Caſtanaga* Governour of *Flanders*, to Inform him of the State and Condition of the Town. On the 25*th*. Monſieur *Louis* ſent a Bravado Meſſage to the Magiſtrates and Burghers of *Mons*, that in conſideration the *King* had been there in Perſon, for every day they held out, they ſhould pay One hundred Crowns.

On the other Hand, A Gentleman got into the Town, with a Meſſage from the Governour of *Flanders*, wherein he acquainted the Magiſtrates and Burghers, that they ſhould be freed from Taxes for twenty Years if they defended the Place till Relief came; At a Councel of War in the *French* Camp, at which were the Famous Monſieur *Vaubon*, and four other Engineers, they aſſured the *King* that he ſhould take the Place in 10 Days, from the time of his Troops firſt appearing before it; Publick Prayers were made at *Paris*, and in all the *French* Conqueſts for the Succeſs of the *French* Army at this Siege.

The Third Letter.

ON the 26*th*. about Eleven a Clock at Noon, the *French* opened their Trenches with three Batteries, with which they began to play on the Town; their Lines of Circumvallation were of a vaſt Circuit, extending at leaſt four Leagues, their Trenches were eight Foot deep, and twenty two Foot broad. In the Afternoon of the ſame Day, the *French* began to play on the Town, from three Batteries, one near the Gate of *Barlemont*, the other betwixt the Gates of *Havery* and *Nimy*; they continued for three Days, ſucceſſively, to Fire very furiouſly, and threw into the Place great Numbers of *Bombs*, many of which were of 500 *l*. weight; they continued to Batter the Place with 150 pieces of Cannon, moſt of which were 48 pounders. The *French* King, at his Arrival in the Camp on the 22*th*. took a Review of his Army, which was then increaſed to 48000 Foot, and 20000 Horſe, without Reckoning the Army under the Marſhal *de Humeirs*, which lay 4 Leagues from *Mons*, and conſiſted of 20000 Men, being deſigned to obſerve the Confederates on the Coaſt of *Liſle*, and, if occaſion were, to joyn the *French* Army. The *French Bombs* on the firſt and ſecond days after the opening the Trenches, ſet ſeveral Houſes on Fire in the Town; but by the indefatigable Induſtry of the Burghers, they were ſoon Quenched; one of their firſt Batteries, by reaſon of the looſneſs of the Earth, ſunk in, that their Balls could hardly reach the Walls of the City; they kept playing from Morning till Night, and by Night ſet forward their Approaches. The Enemy on the 27*th*. made ſeveral Attacks on the Outworks, but particularly on a *Wind-Mill Hill*, and a Redoubt, which ſtands near the Suburbs, on the River; but were as often, with great Bravery, Repulſed by the Garriſon, with the loſs of 800 Men, among which were ſeveral conſiderable Officers: But, with their fourth Attack in the Evening, they made themſelves Maſters of it. But the next Morning the Beſieged retook it, who not being able to keep it, blew up the *Mill*, and retir'd into the Town: In theſe four Aſſaults the *French* loſt 2000 Men.

On *Thurſday* the 29*th*, early in the Morning, the Enemy made a great and Vigorous Attack upon an Half-Moon, which was the Outwork that cover'd the Hornwork that's next the Gate of *Barlemont*, (on which ſide chiefly they Attackt the Town,) but were receiv'd by the Beſieged, with great Reſolution and Bravery; and after a very ſharpe Diſpute, the *French* were beaten back with a great Slaughter;

ter; and ſoon after the Beſieged made three very ſucceſsful Sallies; In which, and in the Attack the *French* juſt before made on the Horn-work, they killed above 1200 Men, with little loſs on the ſide of the Beſieged; The *French* were likewiſe obſerved to carry away above 60 Wagon-Loads of their Wounded Men, to the Camp.

The Fourth Letter.

ON the 30*th*, the *French* Troops were obſerved to be in a continual Motion from one ſide of their Camp to the other, which plainly diſcover'd their uneaſineſs, for fear Relief ſhould come to the Town; the next day they ordered a Camp to be Marked out, for 50000 Choſen Men, Commanded by the *Dauphin*; at the ſame time they ordered great Numbers of the *Boars* to be employ'd in Cutting down Timber-Trees, to be aſſiſtant to them, in barricading up the cover'd Road that leads to *Bruſſells*. *April* the firſt, the Enemies Cannon having widened the Breach in the Half-Moon, of the Horn-work that's next to the Gate of *Barlemont*, they gave order for the Storming of it a third time, which they did with 7000 choſen Men, a great part of which were *Switzers*; and after a ſharp Diſpute, wherein they had killed a great many Men, they carried the Fort; the *French* had killed and wounded in theſe three ſeveral Aſſaults, (as the Deſerters give account) above 3000 Men, among which were many Officers of Note; the firſt Attack they made was with 4000, the ſecond with 6000, and this laſt with 7000. By Deſerters, that lately Arriv'd in the Town, we underſtood that the *French* Army were increaſed to a vaſt Body, there being the chief Force and Flower of *France*, as likewiſe moſt of the *Engliſh* Gentlemen and Officers, who were Retainers on the late King *James*; that the French were judged to be in the whole, that is, in the Trenches before the Place, in their Camp, and upon the Lines in *Flanders*, about 85 Battalions, and 200 Squadrons; that is, about One hundred thouſand Men, of which there was already killed, Sick and Wounded about twelve thouſand: That the Marquis *de Bouſler*'s Head-Quarters were at the Abby of St. *Dennis*; and thoſe of the Marſhal *de Luxenburg*, the ſame he had in the year 1678, when the Prince of *Orange* obliged him to quit the *Bloccus* of *Mons*: That the great Officers of the *French* Army, were mightily ſurpriz'd at the Vigorous Defence made by the Beſieged; for that when they firſt ſet down before it, they expected to have carried the Place in few days: That beſides *Bouſlers* and *Luxenburg*, there

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was in the Camp the Marshal *de Duras*, and *la Fevillade*, who Commanded as Generals; and under them Commanded the Prince *de Soubize*, the Marquis *de Foyeuse*, the Sieur *du Rubantel*, the Duke *de Vendesme*, and the Sieur *Rose*, as Lieutenant-Generals; and the Marquis *de Villars*, the Marquis *de Congis*, the Duke *de Bourbon*, the Prince *de Conti*, the Duke *de Maine*, the Grand-Prior of *France*, and the Count *de Mont Chevrevil*, as Marshals *de Camp*.

The Fifth Letter.

HIS *Britanick* Majesty, having receiv'd an Account at *Loo*, by an Expres from the Marquis *de Castanaga*, That on the 15*th* past, the City of *Mons* was Invested by the *French* Cavalry, prepared for his speedy Return to the *Hague*; and in the mean time gave Orders for the drawing together, with all possible diligence, the Troops of *Holland*, *Brandenburgh*, *Liege*, &c. and that they should March directly to the Neighbourhood of *Brussels*. On the 21*st*, in the Evening, the King Arriv'd at the *Hague*: Prince *Waldeck* waited on His Majesty that Night; and having receiv'd His Orders, went the next day to *Brussels*. On the 26*th*, the King left the *Hague*, taking his Journey to *Flanders*, by the way of *Breda*: The Duke of *Zell* followed His Majesty on the 27*th*, accompanied with the Baron *de Chauvet*, of the *Lunenburg* Forces. His Majesty, before His departure from the *Hague*, declared the Count *de Solms* General of the Foot; the Earl of *Portland*, Monsieur *Overkirk*, Monsieur *Opdam*, and Monsieur *Zulestine*, Monsieur *Holsoppel*, Count *Tilly*, and Monsieur *Itterſum*, Major Generals of the Horse; and Count *Walraet* of *Nassau*, Monsieur *Zobel*, Monsieur *du Tel*, and Count *Noyelles*, Major Generals of Foot. On the 26*th*, in the Evening, the King Arriv'd at *Breda*, where he was receiv'd with all possible demonstrations of Joy & Respect: His Majesty continued there till *Sunday*-Morning; at which time He set forward for *Vilvoord*, in his way to *Hall*, in order to put himself at the Head of the Confederate-Army, that was Rendezvouzing there; which Place is about six *English* Miles from *Brussels*, in the Road to *Mons*. On *Saturday* the first of *April*, the King set forward for *Vilvoord*, and Arrived there late that Night. On *Munday* His Majesty viewed, and on *Tuesday* Mustered His Army, and Encamped in the Neighbourhood of *Brussels*. On *Wednesday* the Army Marched to *Hall*, where they expected the coming up of the Troops that had not joyned them, as well as part of the Artillery. On *Thursday* the 6*th*, about Three in the Afternoon, at which

time, all the Troops and Artillery were not come up; but the King viewed then 30000 Foot, and 15000 Horſe: The Train of Artillery is compoſed of 71 Pieces of Cannon, and 14 Mortars. This Evening the *Scotch* Regiments of Infantry, and the *Spaniſh* Cavalry, Arriv'd in our Camp, to the Number of about 7000 Men. Great numbers of *Switzers* daily Deſert, and come into our Camp from the *French* Army; they give an Account of the hard Treatment they have receiv'd in this Siege, from the *French* King; That they were always forc'd on the moſt deſperate Attacks, and yet refuſed the Exerciſe of their Religion: They likewiſe tell us, that a moſt Malignant Flux raged much in the *French* Camp, great number of Waggons, with Sick and Wounded Men, going daily from the *French*-Camp to the adjacent Towns; and likewiſe, That the *French* had loſt many of their beſt Officers and Engineers in the Siege.

The Sixth Letter.

BY Deſerters that lately come into the Town, from the *French*-Camp, we receiv'd an Account, That the Sieur *Megrim*, a Famous Engineer, having been Wounded in both his Arms, the *French* King had given Orders for his immediate carrying to *Tournay*, and given directions for ſome of his own Chyrurgeons to take care of him: That the King had forbid all the great Officers of the Army to quit their Poſts; not being without his Fears, that he ſhould be Attack'd by the King of *Great Britain*: He likewiſe Commanded the Duke *de Chartres*, not to go into the Trenches without his Order: That on the 18*th* ſome of our Deſerters came into the *French*-Camp; who aſſured them, That we had abundance of all things in the City; and that every day ſome entred the Town, by the Marſhes; and that we were daily in expectation of Succours: on which they ordered the Marſhes to be more narrowly Guarded; and that they would make their utmoſt Efforts, for the more ſpeedy carrying the Place: that the Duke *de Maine*, and the Grand Prior of *France*, were killed in the Trenches; and that the Marquis *de Boufflers*, and the Duke *de Vendoſme*, were dangerouſly Wounded: That in the ſeveral Attacks they made on the Half-Moon of the Horn-Work, they had loſt above 6000 Men. We cannot ſufficiently expreſs the Courage of the Beſieged; the Parents could ſcarce keep their Children, the Wives their Husbands, and thoſe of the moſt Wealthy of the Inhabitants, from running into the greateſt dangers, through Fire and Power. And as the Garriſon

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consisted of divers Nations, they strove with a kind of Emulation, every one to signalize himself for the Honour of his Country.

Last *Saturday* Night, the Enemy made a great Assault upon that part of the Counterscarp, that lies between the Horn-work, and the Two Half-Moons, but were beat back with very great loss; having besides 2000 private Sentinels and Subalteran Officers, Fifteen Captains Killed, out of Twenty that Commanded the Party; but the Town having so bravely repulsed the Enemy in so many Attacks, and particularly on *Saturday* the *7th*, at Night; the next day being *Sunday*, they made another Attack, more furious than the rest; and, after some hours Dispute, with a great Slaughter to the *French*, they carried the Fort; the Taking of which being of so great Importance, rendring their Approaches and Access to the Town very easie: That the next Morning, being the *9th*, the Burghers, being animated by the Clergy, without the Governors or Garrisons knowledge or consent, caused a White-Flag to be hung out (to prevent the Effects of the Enemies intended Storm) and a Cessation of Arms being agreed on, and Hostages exchanged on both sides, the Articles of Capitulation were Signed about Two in the Afternoon; whereas before that, the *French* Army was ready to draw off, dispairing of Taking it by Force.

FINIS.

ADVERTISEMENT.

AN Impartial Relation of all the Transactions between the Army of the Confederates, and That of the French *King, in their Last Summers Campaign in* Flanders: *With a more particular Respect to the Battle of* Fleury. *The Character of the Generals, and the Reasons of that most unhappy Miscarriage. With a List of the Great Officers Slain. Also, Observations on the late Grand-Consultations at the* Hague; *and the New Measures that are taken, for the Opening the ensuing Campaign, compared with Those of the Last. To which are added, Brief Instructions and Encouragement to those* English *Gentlemen, that are going to Serve in the approaching Campaign: Also, A short Description of the* Spanish Netherlands. *By* W. Sawle, *Chaplain to One of Their Majesties Regiments in* Flanders. London, *Printed, and are to be Sold by* Randal Taylor, *near* Stationers-Hall. 1691.